

# **FISCAL NOTE**

## **HB 3380 - SB 3216**

April 5, 2004

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Makes various revisions of the Charter Schools Act, to include the following:

- Specifically prohibits churches from sponsoring a charter school but removes the language that prohibits sponsoring by an entity that promotes the agenda of any religious denomination or religiously affiliated entity.
- Revises the purposes for which a charter school may be formed to provide alternatives for students who (1) were, either in the year of application to a charter school or in the year prior to that, enrolled a school failing to make adequate yearly progress; (2) are failing to make adequate yearly progress; (3) are eligible for free or reduced price school lunch programs; (4) are eligible to receive special education services as a result of a English language learner; (5) are categorized as *high-risk or drop out*.
- Removes the blanket waiver of all education rules and regulations but allows the charter school to apply for a waiver of any statute that they feel inhibits their ability to meet their goals.
- Deletes language that limits the students that can be served by a charter school working with a public higher education teacher training institution to special needs students. Also provides that applications cannot be appealed to the State Board of Education.
- Removes the limitation on the number of charter schools allowed to open each year.
- Requires that LEAs make unused or under used space available to charter schools at not charge.
- Revises current law relative to enrollment eligibility and preferences given to charter school applicants.

### **ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Other Fiscal Impact - Shifts BEP funds from the LEAs to public charter schools in an amount estimated to exceed \$100,000.**

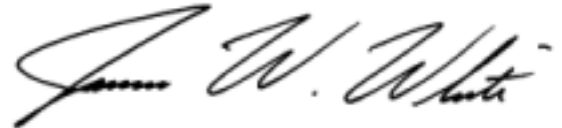
Estimate based on the following:

- The bill opens up eligibility to populations of students not eligible under current law as well as removing the annual limit to the number of charter schools that can be approved.
- Any increase in the number of potential charter schools or charter school students would result in a shift in local government revenues and expenditures from the LEA to the public charter school.
- Charter schools have an average enrollment of 100 students.

- An amount per student based on revenue would go to the charter school since funds follow the student.
- Estimate assumes that this bill would not require additional BEP funds, but such education BEP funds would be reallocated from traditional public schools, as the funds follow the student, to public charter schools.

**CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a stylized, elongated script.

James W. White, Executive Director